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UNCLAS USUN 3014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, TSPA

SUBJ: AMERASINGHE ON GROUP OF 77 DIVERGENCIES AT THE

UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. AMB. AMERASINGHE, PRESIDENT OF THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE 31ST SESSION OF THE UN GA, HAS, AS IS USUAL FOR HIM BEFORE SESSIONS OF THE LOS CONFERENCE, PREPARED A SUBSTANTIAL NOTE FOR THE CONFERENCE'S 5TH SESSION TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK FROM 2 AUGUST THROUGH 17 SEPTEMBER. (THE NOTE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO UN MISSIONS ON 26 JULY AS A/CONF. 62/L.12, DATED 21 JULY.) IT CONTAINS HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRINCIPAL AREAS ON WHICH HE BELIEVES DELEGATIONS SHOULD CONCENTRATE.

2. WE THINK IT INTERESTING THAT AMERASINGHE CHOOSES TO CONCLUDE HIS ANALYSIS BY CALLING ATTENTION TO DIVERSITIES OF INTEREST WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 ON LOS ISSUES, IN THE

FOLLOWING TERMS:

25. A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF LOS CONFERENCE, AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER AREAS OF UN ACTIVITY, IS DIVERGENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN STATES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER GROUPS THAT NORMALLY FUNCTION WITHIN UN SYSTEM.

26. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES DEMARCATION HITHERTO HAS, BY AND LARGE, BEEN BETWEEN THREE MAIN GROUPS, VIZ.:

(I) DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMIES;
(II) SOCIALIST GROUP OF COUNTRIES WITH CENTRALLY-CONTROLLED ECONOMIES; AND
(III) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED IN GROUP OF 77.

27. AS REGARDS PROBLEMS OF LOS, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST ON MANY KEY ISSUES, EVEN AMONG MEMBERS OF ANY OF THESE WIDER GROUPS. A NEW AND SUBSTANTIAL GROUP HAS EMERGED IN FORM OF LAND-LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES WHERE DIVISION BETWEEN JOINT ACTION MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF ENSURING ACCESS TO SEA AND MEANS OF

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OBTAINING A LEGITIMATE SHARE OF COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND.
MEMBERS OF SOCIALIST GROUP ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN GROUP OF
LAND-LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES.
CONCEPT OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE HAS BROUGHT INTO BEING
A GROUP OF COASTAL STATES WHICH INCLUDES BOTH DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

28. OLD TIES HAVE BECOME BLURRED IN PURSUIT OF NEW INTERESTS.
29. NEGOTIATIONS DURING FORTHCOMING FIFTH SESSION WILL BE THE
MOST CRUCIAL STAGE OF THIS CONFERENCE. THEY WILL PROVE TO BE
A SEVERE TEST OF DIPLOMATIC ACUME, INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL
AND POLITICAL VISION,
BENNETT ✓